

I support H.R. 158 and urge my colleagues to also support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am pleased today to present to the House H.R. 158, legislation that would designate the United States Courthouse in downtown Billings as the James F. Battin State Courthouse.

While there are a few Members in and around this chamber who remember Jim Battin as Montana's eastern Congressional District representative, and others who remember him as a distinguished member of the Federal bench, I want to take a few minutes today to give my colleagues some reflections on the life of the man we will honor today.

James Battin earned a reputation for effectiveness and for integrity during five terms here in the Congress and for 27 years on the Federal bench. His accomplishments range from building new protections for the environment and wilderness preserves, to rulings on streamlining the Federal Judiciary proceedings. He, for example, created the precedent for the now universally accepted six-man Federal jury in Federal cases.

After high school, James Battin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. And after the war, he began his career in public service as a city attorney in Billings, Montana.

In 1958 he was elected to the Montana State legislature, and in 1960 he successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his first term in the U.S. House, James Battin was chosen by his fellow freshmen legislators to sit on the House Committee of Committees. And as a member of that critical House overseer, he secured a seat for himself in his first term on the House Committee on Ways and Means. Monitoring the Federal purse strings from this vantage point, Battin solidified the respect of his colleagues, exerting great influence on behalf of his large home State.

In his second term, Battin was appointed to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, an assignment soon followed to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

With a growing list of Congressional responsibilities and influence, he came to play an instrumental role in a host of legislation, among these the law creating the Montana Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, at that time the largest wildlife reserve in the United States.

Throughout the 1960s he would serve Montana for five terms in the U.S. House, each time winning election by a wider and larger landslide margin.

In addition to his duties in Washington, James Battin would go on to serve as one of two United States Congressional representatives to the Intergovernmental Committee on European Mi-

gration, which met in Geneva. This group helped persons forced from behind the Iron Curtain to reestablish themselves in other countries with useful occupations. And as an emissary of this Nation, he brought assistance and stewardship of our government to helping people form new businesses.

In 1968 Battin was selected to serve as President Nixon's representative to the Platform Committee at the Republican National Convention. Amid a time of change, upheaval and war abroad, he helped articulate his party's vision for the future of America.

With a congressional career moving at full pace, and his influence increasing every year, Battin welcomed new representatives and took them in stride and helped them adjust.

In 1969 Battin was asked by President Nixon to serve as a Federal District Judge in San Francisco. The new post appealed to the five-term Congressman and represented a huge stepping stone in his career. However, Battin declined because, while he aspired to be a Federal judge, he wanted to raise his family in the quiet beauty of his home State of Montana, a life unlike what he expected would occur in San Francisco.

Soon after, a Federal judgeship became available in his home State in Billings. His judicial home became the Billings Federal Courthouse, which we are redesignating today. James Battin became the first judicial appointment of the new Nixon administration. He went on to serve and excel in this post for 27 years, becoming the District of Montana's Chief Judge in 1978.

During that time, Battin issued key rulings affecting the lives of Montana citizens, among them, preserving access to the Bighorn River for all the people across the State.

A dedicated and hard working man, he remained on the bench until his passing in the autumn of 1996.

James Battin is best remembered as a dedicated husband and father whose first priority was always with his family.

While he proceeded us here by more than 30 years, he stood for the enduring values that bring so many of us to Congress today, the importance of family, a better government, and the desire to serve his fellow citizens.

H.R. 158 is a tribute to a great person. His accomplishments are numerous, and his contribution to the lives of his neighbors is echoed by the wide support he enjoyed among Montana residents for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this legislation as a token of Montana and the Nation's deep gratitude for a lifetime of dedicated service. I urge my colleagues' support for H.R. 158.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 158, that designates the United States Courthouse located in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin Federal Courthouse."

This honor is certainly a very fitting tribute for Judge Battin. He is a remarkable example in our recent history of someone who dedicated himself to public service for the good of

our country. After high school, James Battin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following the war he began his career in public service as a city attorney in Billings, Montana. In 1958 he was elected to the Montana State legislature, and in 1960 successfully ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. For five terms, he served in the U.S. Congress with distinction.

Judge Battin was appointed to the Federal bench by President Nixon in 1969 to serve as a Federal District Judge for the United States District Court of Montana. He developed a reputation as a fine jurist and went on to serve as Chief Judge from 1978 until he elected to take a senior status in 1990.

An even greater monument to this fine man's life is his family. They were always his priority as a husband and parent. Yet, the humble honor that this legislation ensures is certainly a fitting tribute to a distinguished judge and dedicated public servant. I support the bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 158, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the 'James F. Battin United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHARD C. WHITE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 233) to designate the Federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, as the "Richard C. White Federal building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 233

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Richard C. White Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard C. White Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 233 designates the Federal building located in El Paso, Texas, as the Richard C. White Federal Building.

Congressman White represented the 16th District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives for nine successive terms, from 1965 to 1983. He was known for his dedication to public and community service. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, receiving the military order of the Purple Heart. He also served in the Texas State House of Representatives from 1955 to 1958.

In 1983, after serving his ninth congressional term, Congressman White returned to his family in El Paso to resume his legal career and serve as a civic leader. He passed away in February 1998.

As a dedicated public servant to the people of El Paso, this is indeed a fitting tribute. I support the bill and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), who has worked so hard to get this bill to the floor.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 233 and urge this House to pass it. I am proud to have authored the legislation to name the Federal building in El Paso, Texas, after Richard C. White, who represented the people of El Paso in Congress for nine terms, from 1965 to 1983.

In his years of service to our Nation and the people of the 16th District, Congressman White showed genuine concern for his constituents and a commitment to do all that was in his power to help those whom he served. He truly led a life filled with integrity, compassion and contribution to the well-being of others, and he made a lasting impression on the lives of all who knew him.

I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), as well as the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), for scheduling this bill on the floor today.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for their support of this legislation as well. Their expeditious schedul-

ing of this bill is greatly appreciated by the people of El Paso.

Also, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), the chairman and ranking members of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development, for their support and managing of this legislation today.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the 50 Members who cosponsored H.R. 233. Congressman White would have been proud and pleased to know of his many friends in the 106th Congress who knew him and remembered his legacy of public achievement and his leadership on behalf of our great Nation.

Early in his life Richard White showed a great concern and commitment to his community and to his country. He entered military service as a marine in World War II and saw action in the Pacific theater. While fighting in the battles of Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, he was wounded in action, and his service to his country was marked with great honor and decoration, receiving the military order of the Purple Heart.

Upon returning to the States, this military veteran began advocating as an outstanding lawyer for the people of El Paso. In heeding a call for greater community service, Congressman White launched the beginning of a distinguished career as a legislator, serving first in the Texas House from 1955 to 1958.

From the beginning, he worked hard to improve the quality of life along the border, focusing on health care and environmental issues. He established a nursing home at the University of Texas at El Paso and created the Hueco Tanks State Park.

Richard White launched his Congressional career in 1965 as a representative for the 16th District of Texas. Many of my colleagues now were also his colleagues and remember his strong advocacy on behalf of his District. Congressman White exemplified the epitome of public service.

His work on the Committee on Armed Services reflected a strong commitment to national security, providing unwavering support for Fort Bliss's Army Post and in drafting the reorganization of the legislation for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In addition, he brought the needs of El Paso and the border to the forefront in Congress as he created the Chamizal Border Highway and the Chamizal National Memorial.

He also served with distinction on several other committees, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and on the Committee on Science and Technology.

Even though having attained seniority and earning the respect and admiration of his peers, he nevertheless left Congress to return to his family in El Paso. Very typical of Congressman Richard White. The proud father of

seven children, he was intent on spending more time with them and seeking other alternatives to civic service.

I can say today, Mr. Speaker, that Richard White made the most of his life by touching the lives of those around him.

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He was a dedicated representative, a loving husband, a caring father and, most of all, a friend. But, in all of this, he was a consummate professional in everything he did. He was a tremendous leader and a true gentleman who left behind a legacy for all public servants to emulate. It is only fitting that we honor and remember him by passing this legislation today.

I, therefore, look forward to the Senate's quick enactment of the bill and the President's signature of this legislation. With the passage of this bill into law, the designation of the "Richard C. White Federal Building" will serve as a perpetual reminder to our community that he served so well, with the highest values of public service and the ability of one person to improve the lives of many.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, from being a distinguished war veteran to a representative in Congress to a devoted family man, Mr. White clearly has left his mark. It is most fitting and proper that we support this legislation and honor the civic career of Richard C. White by designating the Federal building in El Paso as the "Richard C. White Federal Building."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 233 is a bill to designate the federal building in El Paso, Texas as the "Richard C. White" Federal Building.

As you may know Richard White was a former colleague from Texas who represented the 16th district of Texas from 1965 until 1983. I wish to acknowledge the persistent efforts of Congressman REYES, sponsor of the bill, who currently hold this seat. Congressman REYES worked diligently with Committee members to ensure this bill came to the House floor in a timely manner.

Congressman White was a native born Texan from El Paso who attended the University of El Paso, and later received his law degree from the University of Texas in Austin.

From 1942 until 1945 he served his country with honor and distinction. As a United States Marine stationed in the Pacific he saw active duty and was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

In 1965 he was elected to the United States Congress where he served for 9 terms. While in Congress he served on the Armed Services, Interior, Post Office and Civil Service, and the Science and Technology committees where he was known as a team player, and consensus builder.

In 1983 he retired to El Paso, resumed his legal career and became active in numerous civic activities. Richard White was a devoted husband and father of 7 children. His values, character, integrity, and leadership were assets to the United States Congress.

It is most fitting and proper that we support this legislation and honor the civic career of Richard C. White by designating the federal building in El Paso as the "Richard C. White" Federal Building.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 233.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RONALD V. DELLUMS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 396) to designate the Federal building located at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland, California, as the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 396

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland, California, shall be known and designated as the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 396 designates the Federal building located in Oakland, California, as the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building."

Congressman Dellums was born in Oakland, California. After finishing high school, he served for 2 years in the United States Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge. He then followed educational pursuits and received his A.A. from Oakland City College in 1958, his B.A. from San Francisco State University in 1960, and his MSW from the University at Berkeley in 1962.

In his public role, Congressman Dellums served on the Berkeley City Council from 1967 until 1970, when he was then elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent northern Alameda County. Congress-

man Dellums championed issues involving civil rights, equal rights for women, human rights, and the environment.

At the time of his resignation, Congressman Dellums was the ranking member on the House Committee on National Security. During his tenure, he also held the chairmanship of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the District of Columbia. Throughout his 27-year career, Congressman Dellums served on a variety of other committees and caucuses, including the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Congressional Black Caucus. He resigned in January of 1998 to return to private life.

This is a fitting tribute to our former colleague, who, I might add, was clearly the best-dressed Member of this body. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee so much for bringing this legislation to the floor. We truly honor a man of great character, of great integrity and of great dignity with the naming of this building for our former colleague, Congressman Ron Dellums, a man who led not only our Bay Area delegation but led national movements on behalf of human rights and who brought the titans of apartheid to their knees and dragged a reluctant American government along the way.

He has fought for civil rights for all Americans and, more than any other Member of Congress, he helped to clearly illustrate how an overfed military budget was literally starving our children, our schools and our communities. When it came time to cut that budget, when it came time for the base closures and the various rounds of base closures, Ron worked hard as the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services to make, in fact, sure that those closures were fair, that people had a chance to be retrained and to be reemployed and so their families would not suffer from the closure of those bases and to make sure that the communities in fact were able to absorb those bases into our local economies and to redeploy those assets in the civil economy.

I just want to say that this building is more than about bricks and mortar, it is about truly a monument to an individual that, as people from our community go in and out of this building in Oakland, they will know that in fact this is named for someone who truly cared about them during his entire career in public service.

I am honored to have carried this legislation. Again, I want to thank the committee so much for taking the time and the effort to get this to the floor in such a timely fashion.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 396, a bill to honor Ron Dellums by naming the Federal building located at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland, California, as the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building."

As my colleagues know, Ron represented the 9th District of California for 26 years and during that period distinguished himself in many, many ways. He fought tirelessly for vigorous examination of the state of our military establishment, including its purposes, its budget and other issues involving racial and sexual discrimination. He was a tireless fighter on this floor against apartheid and brought the Congress along with him.

Ron was a dynamic advocate for arms reduction and peaceful resolution of international conflict. His interest extended to health care, civil rights, Congressional authority and alternative budgets. He was a great friend, a mentor, always a gentleman, and a leader. His kindness and humor on this floor are greatly missed.

If I could just add, Mr. Speaker, there are several words that describe Ron. One is always "passion," passion for the causes he fought for, fought for eloquently and always fairly. The other word that comes to my mind immediately is "civility." This building should be a monument to the civility that we should have as we discuss the differences between us. Someone once said that the key is to be able to disagree without being disagreeable, and Ron Dellums represented that to the utmost.

This bill has very broad bipartisan support. I wish to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) for his diligent efforts on behalf of the bill and join him and many others in supporting this bill and urge passage of H.R. 396.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and I particularly thank the chairman and the ranking member for their attention to this bill.

I strongly support H.R. 396. I support this bill which names a Federal facility for a man who loved his country, even when he was one of its greatest critics.

Ron Dellums had range in this body, from his deep leadership on international affairs to his involvement in the most local of issues, the District of Columbia. He was ranking member of the Committee on National Security, and he chaired the D.C. Committee.